



The

GARzette



The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
January 2019 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 28, Issue 1

GARS Presents TechFest, January 26, 2019



Gwinnett Medical Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville, GA

Message from the President

2019 started just like December ended.....WET. After one of the wettest months on record in Georgia, we start the new year with at least one weekend of mild, sunny and decent weather. So what are your new radio projects for 2019?

Techfest is always a good place to check out some new ideas and activities. Neal, W4HNG, is doing a

great job in his second year as TechFest Chairman putting together some great exhibits and forums. We have a great prize of a Yaesu FT-991A for our raffle and some really good door prizes, including a couple of very attractive handheld radios.

I've already heard of some antenna projects starting up including a new Hex Beam and a new multi-band dipole. Now that's the spirit to capture some good DX during the year. I just wish I had some more real estate to put up an end fed dipole. I'm really hearing some good reports from those who have added them to their antenna farm and remember our success on our last Field Day with the end feds for transmit antennas.

It's time to start thinking about our first operating event of the year with the




"The Georgia QSO Party is always a great event and we have a great operating location at the EAA690 Hangar."

Georgia QSO Party in April. We have a new Georgia QSO Party Chairman with Mark Kozma, KD3GC. Normally, Winter Field Day is our first club operating event, but with the later date for TechFest, we had a conflict. The Georgia QSO Party is always a great event and we have a great operating location at the EAA690 Hangar. I know we have plans for SSB, CW and Digital stations

to be operating so come out and take you pick of operating modes. I really like this event because the operating times are in two parts on Saturday and Sunday without an overnight stay.

Let's have some radio fun in 2019.

73,



**WB4QDX,
Club
President**

"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."

[Author Unknown]

GARS January Meeting and Workshop

Radio Navigation

By Jere Sandidge, K4FUM
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 7:00 pm

Logbook of the World (LoTW) Part 2

By Mike Weathers, ND4V
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 7:00 pm

*GARS Officer Nominations are open at the January and February meetings;
Elections are at the February meeting*

Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1
690 Airport Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
[Directions to EAA Hangar](#)

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GARS Communications

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance)
<u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset	Other Resources: <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR
<u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>D-STAR</u> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

**Don't forget
to support our
advertisers at the
back of the
GARzette.**

Snail Mail Address:
GARS
P.O. Box 492531
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: editor@gars.org Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603



Special Events

2018 was another great year for special event stations and for other yearlong operating events. Some of the well known perennial favorites:

- The [13 Colonies](#) event, around the week of July 4, activates stations in all of the 13 original colonies. Some GARS members participate in these activations. Chasers can go for the “Clean Sweep” by contacting stations in all original 13 colonies, plus other stations, including GB13COL in England;
- [W9IMS](#) should once again offer the QSL cards and the certificate for contacting the station during the 3 races at Indianapolis Motor Speedway: INDYCAR Grand Prix, Indianapolis 500 and Brickyard 400;
- The annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Communications Test (see <http://www.usarmymars.org/events/armed-forces-day>) is an event (usually in May) where military stations and amateurs communicate while transmitting in their own band. It’s your chance for a QSO with WAR in the Pentagon;
- In early September, [Route 66 on the Air](#) provides contacts with multiple stations along the Route, with nice QSL cards and a certificate (sample shown right).



2018 Review

- For [NASA on the Air](#), I was able to contact 8 sites for a total of 14 unique QSO’s.
- Although I did not actively pursue standings in the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#), I did activate the rare grid FM13 3 times in 2018, providing almost 90% of all LoTW QSL’s for that grid (375 out of 417).
- 2018 was the 1st annual “12 Days of Christmas” event (certificate pictured right). 12 different 1x1 calls could be contacted; I started late and could only contact 4 of them.
- I achieved a clean sweep in 13 Colonies and contacted all station in CW, (all from my mobile radio setup), except for GB13COL.
- I did not participate in the Armed Forces Crossband Communications Test in 2018, and I could only manage QSO’s for 2 of the 3 W9IMS races, so no certificate for me this year!



What’s new for 2019?

One of the most anticipated yearlong events for 2019 is Canadian National Parks on the Air (CNPOTA). This event is based on ARRL’s 2016 NPOTA, but for parks managed by Parks Canada. They operate 48 National Parks and 172 National Historic Sites, for a total of 220 “Administrated units” eligible for activation. It is the brainchild of a group of volunteer hams in Nova Scotia; see their website at <https://cnpota.ca> for more information. If you are interested in activating a CNPOTA unit, take a look at <http://www.arrl.org/us-amateurs-operating-overseas>; also remember you need a passport to enter Canada from the US.



For more information

Other Special Event stations are listed throughout the year. I use these websites to search for them:

ARRL special event listings: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

1x1 callsigns: <http://www.1x1callsigns.org/>

DX World Bulletins: <https://dx-world.net>

eHam.net forum: <https://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?board=35.0>

DXNews.com forum: <https://dxnews.com/forum/forum/special-event-stations>

There’s even a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/SpecialEventSchedules/>

Happy Hunting in 2019!

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS
GARzette Editor

GARS Happenings

20 Years ago in the January 1999 GARzette:

- The 1998 GARS Ham(s) of the Year award was given to Mike (K4HBI) and Susan (AF4FO) Swiderski;
- Advertisements included the 2nd annual GARS TechFest on January 23, and the GARS Holiday Party;
- This month's "On The Air" features Paul Brisendine, K4HCM;
- In "Bringing out the Ham in Me", Reberta Rogers, N3IAR, discusses how she became a licensed ham to spend more time with her husband;
- Ed, N4ZRA, discusses Radio Direction Finding (RDF) contests;
- Dean, AD4OD, encourages US hams to send out higher quality QSL cards;
- David Adcock, KA4KKF, announces he is running for President of GARS (pictured right);
- We show some photos taken during the Christmas Holiday Party.



You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS, GARzette Editor



TechFest is an ARRL-sanctioned Hamfest and a show-and-tell of the various facets of amateur radio and Chili Cook-off! It's all free, no entry fee and a free lunch!



TechFest will be held JANUARY 26, 2019 at:
Gwinnett Medical Center's Resource Center,
665 Duluth Highway (GA-120), Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Door prize drawings are held throughout the day. You must be present to win door prizes. Each year, we raffle off a large prize. You don't have to be present to win this raffle. Grand Prize for this year's raffle is a Yaesu FT-991A! To purchase raffle tickets online, go to <http://adatab.duckdns.org/tickets.cfm>



Doors open at 9:00 AM, Prize Raffle and last Door Prize drawing around 2 PM.

We will hold VE Testing Sessions starting at 9:00 AM. Regular testing fees apply. Please visit <http://gars.org/exams/> for more info.

For more info, visit the TechFest website at www.techfest.info. If you wish to volunteer, sign up by clicking on the link in the "Volunteers" section of the website.

Adventures in RFI, Part III

By Bill Hawkins, WR1TR

Recently my HF rig has been silent. For a few months all of my radio time plus some was taken up learning Morse Code. I'm happy to report that I now know some, but my neglected radio, well, was neglected. When I returned to it a few weeks ago I was shocked to find that I had antenna problems. No big deal, just some coax connections that needed to be wiggled. By the time I got that cleared up I heard the XYL calling me to dinner and my radio time was done.

Now that the holidays are fully here (I'm writing December 27) I have time to do some serious HF. I fired up the trusty IC-7300 and did a quick test. The tuner wasn't jumping all over like it did with the bad connections, the power didn't shut off when I keyed up (Check your battery power if that happens), and despite the 69 SFI I was hearing happy chatter on 40 meters.

Not only that, I tuned down the band to 7.150 and heard a familiar friendly voice from South Africa. I waited until the ongoing QSO ended and called. He picked me up on the first call and we had a short conversation that ended with him informing me that my voice was distorted by RFI. He's a popular guy so I said 73 and went on to find a clear spot on the band to test. That was easy enough because about the time our QSO ended, the band took a dive into the Never Never.

I couldn't hear myself—note to self: it helps to have monitor turned up a bit—so I went on and found a group that was setting up to call VE0JS who is sailing down near the Falklands. At that point, one of the guys in the queue informed me that I had some serious RFI. He did not offer a description of the noise. Nothing was heard from our sailor. In the meantime, I was checking connections and truthfully a little concerned that my radio or connected gear may be damaged. The first thing to come to mind was my headset. I immediately went into denial. Who wants to believe that the most expensive accessory you have is kaput? Down around 7.138 the waterfall was showing the telltale constant column of a ragchew. Those are sometimes good for troubleshooting, so I rolled down there and listened. Sure enough it was G0EVY from Britain and his gang. The guy has a full 40 meter beam and when it's pointed this way the signal is fantastic.

I tossed my call sign in, got welcomed, and immediately informed that I had a serious RFI problem. Thankfully someone reminded me that I had the option to adjust my monitor level. I set the monitor up from 1 to 15 (I must have turned it down for CW practice or something) then found a clear place, there was a lot of that, to call and started testing. VOX was on. I assumed that when you changed from CW to LSB it would go off. I guess not. In three minutes my signal cleared up. I rolled back down to 7.138 and called the guys. The problem was back. What?!

If you've ever listened to G0EVY and the guys that hang out with him you may have noticed that the slightest thing wrong with your audio will draw their full attention your way. Not in an ugly way. That only happens if you don't fix it. Especially Dave G0EVY. He will not let go, and failure to address said audio problem is criminal in his view. I tried to politely go away and work on it myself, but they insisted that I hang around. That's a good thing. First, we ran up to 7.175 to see if it was something frequency related. Nope. I can't explain why it sounded clean to me up there the first time, but the problem was not unique to the lower part of the band. The next thing suggested was that I switch mic's. Remember that I didn't want to know if my headset was bad. I didn't want to even think about that. I switched mic's.

The problem was gone. Oh, that hurts. But, there was still hope. The conversation in the group went immediately to why the headset was introducing RFI. Cheap cables were the number one discussed culprit. I don't happen to believe that Heil uses cheap cables. After all, this RFI issue is new and the headset isn't. A damaged cable was possible. I decided to inspect the cheaper components first. There were other possible culprits. Above the mic input on the radio is the 3.5 mm audio output. On my rig, that goes to a splitter. One cable goes to the headphones and the other goes to a set of speakers. In the past I have used an ancient radio shack speaker that has no amplification. It's not loud but it worked. When I started the CW Ops training, I found that speaker to be inadequate for getting my CW to the headset mic for Skype. So, I added a set of computer speakers that included amplification and a lot of wire that over time mysteriously tangled with other wire. You get the picture.

I unplugged the splitter and went direct to the cluster of speakers. The noise, an incredible amount of distortion,

Adventures in RFI (Continued on page 12)

Beginner's Corner

Climb to New Heights with SOTA, Part 1

We continue our series on portable operations by looking at SOTA, Summits on the Air. According to the web site (sota.org.uk), SOTA is “an awards scheme for radio amateurs that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas”.

This doesn't mean you have to climb miles up a steep mountain or hike long distances in order to participate. On the contrary, SOTA was set up even for those who, shall we say, are “climbing challenged”. I am one of those people. There are awards for activators (those who ascend to the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, a local hilltop or are even activators on other summits). Either way, SOTA is fun!

SOTA is an organization with no dues and nothing to join. The web site says it is helpful to register an account on line. There is “SOTAwatch” to find out what is happening now. There is also a reflector and a database. The web site has great introductions, the rules and guidelines, and their environmental statement. (Basically, care of the environment is of high importance in SOTA.)

OK, you have to go to a recognized summit, not just any hill that happens to be around. I live about halfway up a hill, and this hill does not qualify as a summit.

They suggest to start easy, first. We have Stone Mountain as a recognized summit (pictured right). For the physically fit, you can climb up the mountain on the recognized trail. I did that twenty years ago, but I couldn't do it today. I will take the tram to the summit. Easy, right?



I have heard people taking as little equipment as a handheld and a whip antenna on a SOTA activation. You can't drive to the Stone Mountain summit, so whatever equipment you take, you will have to carry it. My IC-7100 fits in my go bag, a carry-on suitcase, and that can include a small battery. I have a J-pole antenna that I could take, but it might be hard to find somewhere to hang it on. You could take a beam antenna if you can get it up there. I have a 222 MHz beam. It is small enough to carry, and it would work with my handy-talkie (HT). My HT is only five watts, as opposed to the 50 watts I could get with the 7100 on other bands.

If you have HF capabilities, great! SOTA is worldwide and can be found on all bands. Check the rules, whatever frequency you are using.

It is a good idea to notify people that you are activating a summit. There are several DX activity spots on the internet. You can always check what's on the SOTA reflector, as well. This is the place where I would start.

(To be continued...)

73 de *David Harden*, KJ4CMY

Credit: Picture of Stone Mountain from <https://www.stonemountainpark.com/>

Gwinnett ARES Highlights

By Karen Whited, AB4NW

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the EOC on Hi Hope Road.

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact Hall Collier W4IGE at w4ige@arrl.net.



MEMBER PROFILE: *David Harden, KJ4CMY*

David lives in Lilburn and is originally from Poughkeepsie NY. He is married to Phyllis, KN4AEZ, and has three grandchildren in Nebraska: Sean, 14, Alan, 11, and Ruth, 9.

ARES TRAILER DEPLOYED TO CHOA CHRISTMAS PARADE

On December 1, Gwinnett ARES offered communications support services to assist DeKalb ARES for the 38th annual parade. Our trailer was staged as the Net Control Station with Nick Doemland AB4CQ and John Davis WB4QDX. Dave Kuechenmeister N4KD shadowed a parade official on a very wet and cold parade route.



David served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years. He attended Arizona State University, Community College of the Air Force, as well as numerous other colleges during his Air Force years. His duties were in communications and radio repair. He lived five years in England and seven years in Germany and was in Berlin three days before they took Checkpoint Charlie away to put it in the nearby museum. He has a picture of two of his children in East Berlin looking west through a gigantic hole near Checkpoint Charlie. A year earlier that would have been impossible. Being in Germany during the re-unification was one of the highlights of his life. After discharge, David worked at a local telecommunications company and at Home Depot before retiring.

He was first licensed 10 years ago and became a GARS and Gwinnett ARES member at that time. He also belongs to the Atlanta Radio Club, is a radio operator for a local food bank, and is a member of the Lilburn Emergency Amateur Radio Net, which is a group of local church congregations who prepare for emergency communications.

David's shack includes an IC-7100, TS-430, ID-51A +2, and other HT's. His home antenna is a G5RV, with a Chameleon Tactical antenna and several dipoles for portable use. He enjoys nets mostly because there is always someone to talk to. The camaraderie with other hams is also a lot of fun.

His other interests are puppetry and family history. He is working on a two-year project indexing records for familyhistory.org.



PROMOTIONS

Mark Bell N7GRB is
*Assistant Emergency Coordinator
for Public Health
in Gwinnett ARES*



Larry Whited AB4NX is
*Assistant District
Emergency Coordinator for
Public Health – Metro*



Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only fifteen primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Ruth - KM4LAO	Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL
Ray - N4GYN	Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX
Bill - KK4AUA	David - KA4KKF	Kevin - KK4WOG
Chuck - KK4TKJ	Mike - KK4KHS	Donna - KM4FMW

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at KK4TKJ@arrl.net. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager

GARS Membership Page

New GARS Members in December

None

New Members: 0

Total Members as of January 1, 2019
305

Join GARS members for our
weekly breakfast gathering at
7:30 AM most Saturdays

at

Golden Corral
2155 Riverside Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

[\(Directions\)](#)

The following members are
celebrating birthdays
in January:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
From All of Us at GARS

Donald Brant (N2VGU)
Jolie Brown
Terry Cantrell (W4WTC)
Rick Cobb (N4XYY)
Randy Collins (N4COR)
Mike Cottrell (KJ4EIE)
John Craig (KK4JXU)
Mark Fenley (KM4DJO)
Gregg Freeman (W1ROO)
Kevin Highsmith (KK4WOG)
Charles Johnston (KN4JCN)
Kevin McClure (KF4HFN)
Antonio Perry (KN4AXM)
Grant Porter (KG4SDR)
Joseph Trunk (AA8XR)
Jonathan Welch (KN4QEP)
Newton White (N4EWT)
Ruth Willet (KM4LAO)
Curtis Young (WA4HCE)

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail
towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.),
please e-mail the Membership Committee - membership@gars.org

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Repeater Status

6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added



L&M Mobility

Robert (Mike) Smith
5191 La Paloma Dr.
Lilburn, GA 30047
Phone (404)-509-3104
Smithrm70@hotmail.com

SERVICE & REPAIR
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GARS on Social Media

GARS has moved from Yahoo Groups
to Groups.io!

If you were subscribed to the
Yahoo group, you have been automatically
enrolled in Groups.io!



Join GARS on Groups.io:
<http://gars.org/groups.io>

Vis-



it GARS on Facebook:
<http://gars.org/facebook>








Join GARS on YouTube:
<http://gars.org/youtube>















Follow GARS on Twitter:
<http://gars.org/twitter>

G A R S Volunteers





OFFICERS

John Davis, President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson, Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle, Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy, Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins, Program Manager	N4COR	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Karen Albritton, Membership Chair and Public Information Officer	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team & Workshop Leader and Winter Field Day Chair	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Ralph Pickwick, Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Neal Gilchrist, TechFest Chair	W4HNG	
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Mike Weathers, WAS-Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Mark Kozma, GA QSO Party Chair	KD3GC	
Kyle Albritton, Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Kyle Albritton	W4KDA	
Mike Weathers	ND4V	
Rick Cobb	N4XYY	
Bill Cherepy, W4GR Trustee	WB4WTN	

GARS MEETING MINUTES

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society – GENERAL Meeting Minutes (Holiday Party) 12/8/2018

President John Davis (WB4QDX) opened the meeting at 7:00pm and closed the meeting at 7:25pm.

The Party Started at 6pm and ended at 9pm
At EAA Facility, 690 Hanger Rd. Lawrenceville, GA.

Attendees: Recognized and counted to [85].

Treasurer: Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) gave the Club financial report.

Membership Report: Indicates the club count is at [314].

Program Chair: Randy Collins (N4COR)

Upcoming Programs:

January 2019 – Radio Navigation

February 2019 – W1AW Presentation

RECOGNITION – Neal Gilchrist (W4HNG) is presented with the **GARS Ham Of The Year** award for Outstanding Volunteerism and Club Contribution.

Entertainment:

- Walter L Biel with Holiday Music on the Guitar (<https://guitaristlive.com>)
- Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) with Walter Biel musical accompaniment, recited Joe's poem from the December 1995 GARzette – The Night Before Christmas, A Ham's Way!

Submitted by: **Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) GARS Secretary**

Adventures in RFI (Continued from page 6)

continued. I unplugged the speakers and went direct to the headset. The noise was gone. Yes, I did go back and try different configurations, but my culprit was found. Every time I connected the computer speakers to the rig, I had horrible RFI distortion in my transmissions.

It seems that one of the hazards of not using a radio is that things can get weird while you're away. It's like that new string of Christmas lights that you put in the attic that works perfectly until you take it out a year later. It's been ignored, neglected, and it will have its payback.

Lessons learned:

- Don't neglect the radio and expect it to work. We all know this but...
- Don't link low budget audio components to the radio. If you do, put a label on them that says *In case of trouble, unplug this first.*
- Use the monitor option to listen to your audio.

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

January 2019

- 1 [Straight Key Night](#)
- 5 [Kid's Day](#)
- 5-6 [RTTY Roundup](#)
- 19-21 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

February 2019

- 11-15 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 16-17 [International DX – CW](#)

March 2019

- 2-3 [International DX– Phone](#)

April 2019

- 14 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

June 2019

- 8-10 [June VHF](#)
- 15 [Kid's Day](#)
- 22-23 [Field Day](#)

July 2019

- 13-14 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2019

- 3-4 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)
- 17-18 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)
- 18 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

September 2019

- 14-16 [September VHF](#)
- 21-22 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)
- 21-22 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)

October 2019

- 19-20 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
- 21-25 [School Club Roundup](#)

November 2019

- 2-4 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)
- 16-17 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
- 16-18 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

December 2019

- 6-8 [160 Meter](#)
- 14-15 [10 Meter](#)
- 15 [Rookie Roundup–CW](#)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

HAMFEST CALENDAR

01/12/2019 | [Georgia ARES Convention & Meeting](#)

Location: Forsyth, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Georgia ARES

Website: <https://gaares.org/>

01/26/2019 | [TechFest](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.techfest.info/>



02/02/2019 | [South Carolina State Convention \(Charleston Hamfest\)](#)

Location: North Charleston, SC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://wa4usn.org>

02/08/2019 | [Southeastern Division Convention \(Orlando HamCation\)](#)

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>

02/23/2019 | [Dalton Hamfest](#)

Location: Dalton, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dalton Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4drc.com>

03/08/2019 | [North Carolina Section Convention \(Charlotte Hamfest\)](#)

Location: Concord, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://charlottehamfest.org>

For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

Note: When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC

GARS Events Calendar for 2019		GARS Recurring Calendar
TechFest (www.techfest.info) January 26 Winter Field Day (same day as TechFest, not scheduled for 2019) General HamCram March Dog Show Fundraiser March 28 - 31 Georgia QSO Party April 13 & 14 North metro area Fox Hunt April May Madness May Memorial Day Parade May 27 ARC/KARC Hamfest June 1 Field Day June 22 & 23 Tech HamCram July JOTA October Maker Faire October Stone Mt. Hamfest November 2 & 3 Holiday Party December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Club Meeting ♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Workshop ♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm: GARS Ham Exam Session Fire Station #24 2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd Buford, GA 30519 ♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater ♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater ♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast Golden Corral Restaurant 2155 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043
<p align="center">February 2019 GARS Speaker: W1AW Tour by Paul Kelley, W4KLY</p>		

GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 30	December 31 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	1 	2	3	4	5 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
6	7 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	8 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting	9	10	11	12 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast GA ARES Convention at GPSTC
13 GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm Gwinnett Co. Fire Station #24	14 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	15 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Workshop	16	17	18	19 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
20	21 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	22	23	24	25	26 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast 
27	28 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	29	30	31	February 1	February 2 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive

Metro Testing Sessions	Ham Exam Results	Metro Club Meetings
<p><i>GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at http://www.arrl-ga.org.</i></p> <p>First Sunday, ODD Months 2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov) VEC: WCARS Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560 w4rlg@bellsouth.net</p> <p>First Sunday, EVEN Months 2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) VEC: WCARS Hall County EOC 470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga. Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD (770) 536-3056</p> <p>Second Saturday 10:00 AM Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center 13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004 Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK E-mail: km4ik.ian@gmail.com</p> <p>Third Saturday, ODD Months VEC: ARRL 9:30 am (Appointments required, no walk-ins) Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge 840 VFW Drive Stone Mountain, GA 30083 Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP Email: fhaynes@vatmom.net (678) 467-3712</p> <p>Second Sunday VEC: W5YI 2 pm Fire Station #24 Mall of Georgia Boulevard Buford, GA 30519 Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR E-mail: exams@gars.org</p> <p>First Sunday, EVEN Months VEC: WCARS and W5YI 2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg 66 McElroy Street Winder, GA 30680 Contact: Mike Wolcott, W4WYI (404) 281-6581 E-mail: W4WYI@ARRL.net</p> <p>(cont. next column)</p>	<p>December Results</p> <p>We had a good testing session on Sunday, December 9, 2018. The forecasted inclement weather never materialized and we had five candidates show up for examination. Four of the five passed exams as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One new Technician class - Two upgrades to General class - One upgrade to Amateur Extra class. <p>The VE's that made this exam session possible were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richard Kitz, KM4SWL - Nick Doemland, AB4CQ - Russell Prevost, AB4QQ - Robert Hoffmann, K4CQO - Sid Weaver, N4NQ (Co-CVE) - Frank Haynes, KV4SP - Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE) - Robert Pence, KM4AAP <p>73, <i>Don</i>, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)</p> <p>GARS VE Team Leaders E-mail: exams@gars.org</p> <p>GARS VE Website: http://gars.org/exams</p> <p>Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7 pm @ United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770) 942-6466</p> <p>Fourth Sunday 2:30 pm Georgia Tech VanLeer Elec. Building Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr. For more information go to www.w4aql.com and click on "Test Sessions"</p>	<p>First Tuesday Kennehoochee ARC Downtown Marietta Fire Station #1, Training Room 112 Haynes Street Marietta, Georgia 30060 Meeting begins at 7:00pm Talk In 146.880(-)</p> <p>First Thursday Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30pm Talk In -146.820(-)</p> <p>N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library 1344 South Broad Street, Commerce Meeting is at 6:30pm Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0</p> <p>Second Monday Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00pm</p> <p>Second Thursday Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Annistown Rd & Spain Rd Stone Mountain Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 146.760(-)</p> <p>Second Saturday North GA QRP Club Board Room of The Shepherd Center 2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta at 10:00 AM</p> <p>Third Tuesday North Fulton Amateur Radio League Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept Alpharetta Adult Activity Center 13450 Cogburn Road Alpharetta, GA 30004 meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 145.47(-)</p> <p>For more information, go to: http://www.gars.org/</p>

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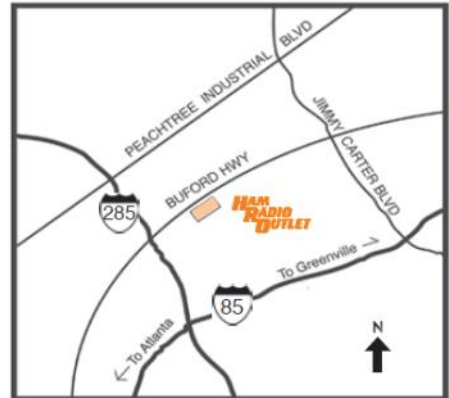


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